National Park Service - Gateway National Recreation Area

Jamaica Bay Summer Boating Programs - 2013 Spring /Summer

Reservations are required for all programs unless indicated; call 718 338 3799 for more information, and to make a reservation. For all boating programs: dress to get wet, wear shoes that will not fall off, and bring water, sunscreen and a snack. Kayaks or canoes, personal floatation devices, paddles and instruction will be provided.



The Prepared Paddler

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Ryan Visitors Center

Monday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Interested in going paddling in Jamaica Bay? Get an overview of paddling best practices. Learn about the skills and equipment you will need, so you can plan your next trip.

Individual Sailing Instruction

Gateway Marina, Brooklyn

Thursdays, June 27th, – August 29th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Each class consists of three consecutive sessions where participants learn the basic skills of sailing. There is a \$50 fee for this program.

Youth Group Sailing

Gateway Marina, Brooklyn

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 9th – August 29th

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Groups will learn about sailing and the environment of Dead Horse Bay. Reservations required; call 718 338 3799 for more information and to make a reservation.

Family Sailing

Gateway Marina, Brooklyn

Fridays, July 12-August 23

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Families will enjoy sailing and the environment of Dead Horse Bay. Reservations required; call 718 338 3799 for more information and to make a reservation.

Walk-Up and Kayak with Your Park Your Health

Canarsie Pier, Brooklyn

Tuesdays, July 2, 16, 30 and August 13

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Try out a kayak for the first time, or look to improve your paddling. No experience or reservations required.

Camp Gateway Walk Up and Paddle

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp

Wednesday, July 3, Noon – 2 pm, Wednesday, August 7, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Friday, July 19, Aug 9, 16, 23, 9:30 – 11:30 Wednesday, August 28, 9:30-11:30

Saturdays and Sundays, July 6 through August 31, 9:30 – 11:30am

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

Canarsie Walk-up and Paddle

Canarsie Pier, Brooklyn

Saturdays, July 6 through August 31, 1 pm – 3:30 pm

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

Riis Landing Walk-up and Paddle

Riis Landing, Queens

Thursday, July 4, Noon – 3pm, Sundays, July 7 through Sept 1, 1pm-4pm

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

Rockaway Cove Paddle

Riis Landing, Queens

Thursday, July 4, 5:30pm - 8 pm

Rockaway Point and back – this 2 mile trip, follows the scenic bay shore of Rockaway peninsula along the cove toward Rockaway Point.

Fun Paddle and Walk in the Park

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp

Friday, July 5, 1pm - 3:30 pm

Enjoy this .75 mile beginner's paddle on the incoming tide, along the shores of Floyd Bennett Field. Land at the Mill Basin Launch and then enjoy a guided walk back to the start. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

Fun Paddle and Walk in the Park

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Mill Basin Kayak Launch (Remote Control Flying Field)

Wed, July 10, 1pm - 3:00 pm, Thurs, July 11, 1pm - 3:00 pm, Wed, July 24, 1pm -3pm

Wed, August 21, 12pm – 2pm

Enjoy this .75 mile beginner's paddle on the outgoing tide, along the shores of Floyd Bennett Field. Land at the Seaplane Ramp and then enjoy a guided walk back to the start. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

Kayak Skills Session

Riis Landing, Queens

Fridays, July 12, July 19, August 2 - Aug 30, 1pm – 4:00 pm

Receive instruction and practice kayak strokes and skills each week. Children over 11 and adults are welcomed to participate in this program.

Ruffle Bar Excursion

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp,

Wednesdays, July 3, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, July 17, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, and Friday, July 26, 11:30- 2:30 pm Paddle around this large island in Jamaica Bay on a 4 to 5 mile trip. Learn about the history of the island and the plants and animals that thrive there.

Gerritsen Creek Kayak Excursion

Gateway Marina, Brooklyn,

Thursday, July 18, noon – 5:00 pm, Thursday, August 1, noon – 5:00 pm,

Enjoy an energetic 4.5 mile excursion up Gerritsen Creek and back. See the estuary and then cool off at the Salt Marsh Nature Center while learning about the animal exhibits and Marine Park displays with the NYC Urban Park Rangers. You'll even have the opportunity to go seining along the shore before kayaking back. Reservations required; call 718-338-3799 for more information and to make a reservation.

Four Sparrow Marsh Paddle

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

Mill Basin Kayak Launch

Thursday, July 11, 9:30 – Noon, Friday, July 12, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 21, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A 2 mile beginner's paddle to the cloistered Four Sparrow Marsh. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

Junior Ranger Canoe Hike

Floyd Bennnett Field, Brooklyn, Mill Basin Kayak Launch

Thursday, July 25, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

A .75 mile beginner's paddle on the outgoing tide along the shores of Floyd Bennett Field. Land at the Seaplane Ramp and then enjoy a guided walk back to the start. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult.

JoCo Salt Marsh Excursion from Bayswater Park

Bayswater Park, Queens,

Wednesday, August 7, 8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy an energetic 4.5 mile excursion from Bayswater Park through JoCo Creek. Immerse yourself in the estuary and visit this lovely salt marsh. NYC Urban Park Rangers will also be accompanying this paddle.

Bayswater Walk-up and Paddle

Bayswater Park, Queens, Thursdays, Aug 8, August 22, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservations required. As you wait to launch, you can also enjoy exploring the beach ecology of the bay shore with the NYC Urban Park Rangers on site.

Idlewild Park Paddle

Idlewild Park, Queens

Thursday, August 15, 29, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Explore the salt marsh near the head of Jamaica Bay on this idyllic beginner paddle. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. Birding activity will also be provided by NYC Park Rangers on shore.

Canarsie Pol Excursion

Canarsie Pier, Brooklyn

Wednesday, August 14, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Paddle around this large island in Jamaica Bay on a 4 to 5 mile trip. Learn about the history of the islands of Jamaica Bay.